This Week In Doubtful News

Written by Sharon Hill Tuesday, 25 September 2012 10:00

Here is a rundown of the top stories in pseudoscience, skeptical and anomalies news from the past week courtesy of <u>Doubtful News</u>.

Controversy! Ignited, flamed or doused, there was plenty of it this week. Several research announcements made the headlines.

A small scrap of papyrus is claimed to be <u>evidence that Jesus had a wife</u>. This has wide ranging implications for the rules about Catholic priests. But is the evidence worthy? Some have doubts.

Headlines of the week were full of reports of protests and riots over an anti-Muslim film trailer. Something is VERY suspicious about this. Is the trailer all there is? <u>Is there no film?</u> Deception and questions fill the background as fatalities and blasphemy rhetoric takes center stage.

A study concluding that mice fed genetically-modified corn and doses of a commonly used weedkiller were more prone to tumors resulted in immediate calls for action even as it sparked a flood of scientists comments that the study was severely flawed.

Want your news delivered in a misleading fashion? Another report showed that Fox News was deliberate in its skewing of facts about climate change, along with the Wall Street Journal.

DNA tests on the dietary supplement black cohosh revealed <u>surprising and disturbing results</u> of the contents. If this was for standard treatments or prescription pharmaceuticals, I can't help but wonder how the story would have played out differently.

The link between chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and certain viruses was more or less resolved this week. A guest commentator supplies the f <u>oundation that led to this point</u> in the research and what it means.

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Two stories about children as victims of superstition and misguided belief. First, a couple avoid significant sign

for their son's death from a burst appendix. The parents and the 16 yr old child chose faith over treatment.

Next, a man is charged with the repulsive crime of child prostitution. Even worse, he <u>used</u> <u>superstitious magic</u>

to make them obey.

Two legal actions provide us with some good news. A <u>judge dismissed a lawsuit</u> from a man claiming to suffer from electromagnetic sensitivity. There is NO basis for his claim.

It appears that Washington's state <u>law tightening up vaccination exemptions</u> might be making a difference.

Two stories on how we take in news and information, one says side-by-side arguments <u>aren't</u> <u>persuasive</u>, <u>but entrenching</u>

A second research result reminds us that we cling to information until we decide to actively remove it . Not an easy thing.

Anomalies this week include a surprising find of an ODD two-headed snake and the discovery that one small animal makes striking sea floor designs

The most unscientific comments from a scientist can be found in this story of a Siberian lake monster . You

will not be impressed with the evidence they have for such a creature (including interpretive drawings from sonar traces) but the call is out for scientists to come on over and take a look.

Please take our reader survey <u>here</u>. We appreciate your feedback.

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An expert take on skeptical news is available weekly on a new video cast and website called <u>Virtual Skeptics</u>

. We talk about the latest events that occurred that week. Check it out and tell us what you think.

Visit <u>Doubtful News</u> for more stories, updated every day. Submit a story from the webpage or <u>email</u>

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Sharon Hill runs Doubtful News, a unique feed of news stories about the paranormal, pseudoscience, the weird and the unexplained with questioning commentary.